

From: Charles B. Stinson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am in support of the current settlement between Microsoft and the Department of Justice at the federal level. Microsoft has produced some of the best products for the computer, which accounts for their vast success and status as an industry leader. There have been some instances in the past where making a choice in peripheral Windows components was overly difficult, which is one of the reasons I am in favor of the current settlement. I understand that from this time forward Microsoft products will be much more accommodating to the use and integration of competitors software peripherals. This is definitely a step forward, because I believe above all else the consumer should have the right to choose, to mix and match software as they see fit.

Another important reason for ending the antitrust proceedings swiftly is the strain, which our economy is currently under. The information technology industry is one of the biggest in the United States, and the antitrust suit has hurt this industry. Not only Microsoft has felt the burden of these proceedings, commercial retailers who sell MS products, employees of said retailers, Microsoft affiliated companies, stock holders, and the American tax payers have all been impacted by the antitrust suit. Given the current down turn in our nations economy, now is not the time to be wasting our resources in the court room when they could be better utilized elsewhere. Therefore I support the antitrust settlement, and urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Charles Stinson